

W I S H
FOR 26
PEACE:

OR, AN
E S S A Y,
For Removing the present
DIFFERENCES
ABOUT THE
PROCEEDINGS
OF
PARLIAMENT.

*Pessimus veri affectus (& judicii) venenum, sua cuique
utilitas, Tac. i Hist.*

*Privata res semper offscere, officientque publicis conciliis
Liv Lib. 22*

EIRENOPOLI, 1690.

W I S H
F O R
P E A C E.



Although the sweetness of a quiet abstraction, with the unlookings, for the most part of public medlings, might determine me, as much as any, in such a critical juncture, to a perpetual Silence: Yet to look on, and see a poor Contray, after a deliverance begun, and still offered from Heaven, by a Prince, to whom on earth we can prefer none; Nevertheless still weeping, Languishing, and Perishing, in an universal unquietness, and Distraction, *Quis semper?*

The liberation that God lately wrought for us, by the Prince of Orange, now our King, was so Seasonable, Easy, and Advantageous, that it was no less the astonishment of our Adversaries, and the wondering of our Neighbouring Nations; then the Joy and Rejoicing of all good Men amongst us: Neither could we our selves have wished, either for a fairer Declaration, or a more Free, and Happy opportunity, than His Majesty then gave us, for the securing

of our Religion, the restoring of our Laws, and Liberties, and the redressing of all our Grievances.

But tho' the surprising Grace of this divine Dispensation, with the refreshing Relief, that we did immediately reap, and do still in a good measure enjoy by it, might have engaged all true lovers of the Protestant Religion, and their Countries well-fare, to concur and co-operat Sincerely and Vigorously, with God, and the King to effectuat such desirable ends; Yet it quickly appeared, that what God had begun to do, was only for his own *Name*, and *Truths* Sake; but no wise for our deserving: For even in the laying of *Foundations*, wherein all were deeply concerned to be Serious and Impartial, heats, and by designs did manifestly break forth. And how these have been since pursued, and managed, to the Vexation of his Majesty, the frustration of the Parliament, the scandal of the Government, the encouragement of Adversaries, and the grief of all Good men, is but too evident to all observers; and too sensibly felt, by the whole Nation, which in stead of that *peace*, which they long since expected, with more and more apprehend growing troubles and disturbances.

But albeit in comparing the *Grievous Effects*, produced by these our differences; with the *small occasions* whence they took their rise, the more *animoities*, wherewith they have been pursued, and the *little or no concern* that the Kingdom hath in this, *ill*, a man may reasonably fear, least the Lords Jealous Indignation, at our so *Unholy*, and *Unjust* practices, under such *Holy*, and *Just* Pretences, be the more *expedient* and *serment* of our Distemper (*our* *unhappy* *state*.) Yet leaving a Speculation, which I know many in this Gods Age do no otherwayes regard, then as *Care* and *Enthusiasm* to Persons more able and proper for improvement, and being encouraged by the publi-

cation

cation of His Majesties *Instructions to Duke Hamilton*, his Commissioner; I shall endeavour without prejudice, or partiality, whereof my Circumstances as well as my Conscience doe fully acquite me, to lay before all Serious, and Sober Men, such grounds, as I think may as readily procure, and accelerat our Peace, and Quiet; as Irrational Humors, and vaine projects, the only Obstructors, may be either happily cured, or safely despised.

And being resolved, for the eschewing of all needless irritation, to goe no farther back on things past, then the *Papers* that of late have made, so much noise amongst us, shall necessarily lead me; It may be truly affirmed, that the *Paper* call'd the *Address*, was at first Generally lik'd, and approved by Sober men: For seeing the preceeding adjournment of the Parliament, viz. From the second day of *August* to the Eight of *October* was very surprizing, and a great disappointment not only to *forfeited*, and other *distressed* Persons then waiting for present relief; but to all who desired the settlement of the Church, and safety and preservation of the Kingdom: It might well seem expedient to these principally concerned, as well for preventing the too probable Elevation, and boasting of Enemies, as for their own vindication from any culpable occasion to a matter of so bad an aspect; that they should first renew their protestations of Loyalty, and fidelity, to his Majesty; And then lay before him a plain account of the innocency and justice (as they conceived) of their votes and proceedings. And considering that it is now manifest by the first additional Instructions that the aforesaid adjournment was unwarranted and precipitant, it is not Improbable that if this *Address* had been immediately and quietly Signed, and transmitted, as the product of an *unselfish*, tho' *Hastie*, well meaning zeal without affecting the *Parade* of many Subscriptions and some other Formalities,

on purpose to make it look bigger and more awfome: It had mer with more acceptation, and obtained from his Majesty in stead of a rejection, at least a qualifying and accommodating Correction: But a far different method having been chosen, and private admonitions for diversion, proving fruitless, and above all, Contentions amongst Pretenders and Competitors being on this occasion more and more inflamed; it is not all to be marvelled, that His Majestie, conceiving measures to be exceeded, and an ill preparative offered, thought fit to Discountenance the attempt, and with all to endeavour to bring things to a temper, by a new cooling adjournment.

'Tis true that what hapned, in this second interval, which was from the Eight of *October* to the Twentieth of *December*. To wit the opening of the *Signet*, and the Nominating and *sitting down* (as we speak) of the Lords of the Session, might have been at least (to speak the truth freely and without any Reflection on his Majesty, whom all men acknowledge to be far above the charge of these Errors) far better ordered: But the *Paper* called the *Vindication* having said too much on this Head, and Criticisms of this Nature being impertinent to my purpose; I shall go on to offer a few Sober remarks on this last named Paper.

And what ever Truths it may contain, (as there are few Papers, of that fashion that doe not contain very material ones) And how acceptable soever it may appear to some, (as the Leckery of telling, and heading ill things of our Neighbours doth certainly ring amongst all mortals) Yet seeing it passionately inveighs against persons, and excessively exaggerates all matters to Extremes, as if *good* or *break* were the only termes *Treatable*; And lastly boldly bears upon His Majesty by frequent *Imaginations*, of abuses and Misgovernment, and his Majesties receiving and holding of his Crown

Crown by *Bargain*, and that not without interminations of the hazard of his Predecessors fate; It too visibly exceeds all bounds of Discretion, and cannot at all be justified, and I am fully assured, that even the *Addressees* do disapprove it.

Thus, to flourish its Introduction, with politick reflections on the irretrievable advantages, (for any thing that our Author proposes) that arbitrary designs have got, for their advancement, by the conjunction of the two Kingdoms, and the residence of our Kings in England, what other aim can it have, then the unlucky suggestion, that the *present Government* must needs prove as unhappy as the *former*. And yet for all that is said of an imboldning accession of power heaped upon our Princes, and a more pernicious occasion of influencing, and over ruling given to *Secretaries* and *Favourites* by our Kings enjoying, and residing in that Kingdom; It is demonstrable by the whole tenor of our History, that Scotland was subject, to far greater Tyrannies, Oppressions, Violences, and Disorders, while our Kings had their abode amongst us, then almost at any time since their departure; And that if there were any thing to be regarded, in this accession of greater Power, it is sufficiently compensated and tempered, by bringing our Administration, to a nearer Conformity with that of *England*, which is by far the more Moderate, Regular and Steady. And as for the Influence of *Secretaries*, and *Favourites*; it is obvious that if once admitted, whether a Prince be present, or absent it is much the same; save with this difference, That in Case of Absence, they are more liable to a Check from the Kings Council remaining amongst us; Whereas when the King is present, they plainly sweep all so that a man may truly say, with *Tacitus*, *Laudatorum Principum usus ex equo, quoniam procul agentibus. Sani gravem*

But supposing that a *Secretary* attending an absent King, hath the advantage of Advising, and recommending (which yet with a prudent Prince, wisely hearkning to his Counsel, and all his Officers, and maturely examining both Persons and things cannot import much prejudice) why was not this point considered, in the framing of the *Claim of Right*? Or rather why was there not then one word spoke, as to the regularizing of the Secretaries Office, tho' the Kingdom had most sadly, and recently smarted under Duke *Lauderdale*, and Earle *Melfort's* Administration? And when it was moved in the meeting of the *Estates* that the King, in respect of his being then a Stranger, and unacquainted with Persons, should be directed in his choice of Officers, by advice to be sent him from His Parliament, and Council in Scotland, conform to the establishment 1641. why was this flatly rejected? And no doubt who ever answers these questions ingeniously, must plainly confess that then, men were restrained by a cautious care, for themselves, or their friends. But now the Disappointed have no remedy, save to complain, which of necessity must have been the event, in all cases and so doth (thus far at least) make the Authors part more tolerable.

But the great end, and reason of his Discourse is to warn us, of the mischiefs we may feare from this conjunction of the Kingdoms, and absence of our Kings, having my Lord *Melfort* to be our Secretary; for albeit, to make the thing more amasing, and ominous, he usher it in with a *what may Scotland then dread* if a Person, such as he is pleased to describe (and I am of opinion, that no man not his Friend had been described much better) should be honoured to be Secretary? Yet the known artifice of men, cunning enough to expose by falsehoods; with our Nations, after more direct and expresse application, suffer us not to doubt
that

that both these are the *Times*, and my Lord *Melvil* the *Person* here pointed at; and so His Majesties Government (the true Character whereof, this *Print* often says, must be learned from the Persons He imployes, and the Effects that it produceth) therein principally concerned.

And therefore, omitting to give a particular Answer, to an Accusation; which by its mean and impotent Carplings at *Gestures*, false insinuations of *Weakness* and *Simplicity*, and the objecting of other groundless and frivolous *Exceptions*, Discovers it self to every indifferent Person, to be a silly effort of envious Passion: I shall only take leave to say, that a man truly fearing God, is at this time a Jewel, and the best qualified Politician, that our present Case requires: That my Lord *Melvil* was not more chosen by the King, to this Office upon certain knowledge of his Sufficiency, and likewise of his Sincerity, Sufferings and Zeal for the *Protestant* Interest, than universally approved by all good Men amongst us: And that if all other men had hitherto acquit themselves, with his Piety, Gravity and Moderation, we should have been long s're now a well Settled and Contented Nation.

Our Author, pursuant to the same Design, makes his next Assault upon His Majesties *Advocate*: But it being foreign to my purpose, to follow him foot for foot in Prosecutions of this nature: I shall only say, that certainly it is a most mischievous Crime, for any to mis-inform, and impose upon His Majesty, in reference to the Laws and Rights of the Kingdom; which being in effect the most important *Land-marks*, and now also, as it were, by Gods own Hand recently cleared and fixed; whoever offers to remove them, must be most *Accursed*: And if *Leesing* making, to the ingendring of Discord between King and People, be at all times by our Law, tho' not *Treason*, (as our Author mistakes) yet *Capital*, to abuse the King at this Juncture by false impressions, of His

Parliament, and People, to the marring of our, so much desired Peace and Settlement, is the blackest of Villanies. But as I doubt not, but that the *Advocat* can easily clear himself of such gross, and horrid Imputations; so to I *loss* him so much, for an Expression he had in Parliament, when speaking for the Admission of Officers of State, into his Committees, viz. *That the King and Parliament had separate Interests*; which the Parliament, and all impartial Men understood to be only meant of their *several Rights*, that are known to be as distinct, as the *Regalia*, or Rights of the Crown are from the Subjects *proper* and peculiar Concerns, discovers too much Passion and Prejudice: And why the *Advocat*, who served in the same Station, with a commendable moderation; and was therefore perhaps turned out, under King *James*; should now upon his re-entry under King *William*, be so violently opposed, hath not as yet fallen under my discussion.

But the chief Business of the *Vindication* being to vindicate the three controverted *Votes* of Parliament, viz. The vote about the *Nominating and appointing Committees of Parliament*: The vote *anent Persons not to be employed in publick trusts*: and the Vote concerning the *Nomination of the Ordinary Lords of the Session, and the Election of the Treasurers*. And my purpose, on the other side, nothing less, than to enter into, and hold up a contention, already too much stirred and agitated beyond all just measures; But singly it is possible to prevent the reviving of Passions, and prejudices, that may mar the great and necessary expectation of the Nation in the approaching Session of Parliament.

I must in the first place, wish that the *Vindicator* had been as tender to publish a Justification Cross to his Marcellus mind, as I am truly loath to say any thing, that may insinuate a reflection, either on the wisdom of the Nation or the good meaning of so many

many honest men; For seeing it was the manner, and method, more then the matter, that was displeasing in the Address, and that, what is sufficiently known to so many, cannot be unknown to this Author, To wit, that the differences about these *Votes* were almost wholly adjusted, and that it did not depend on his Majesty, that they were not fully agreed: What place or Reason can be assigned for this publick Vindication; which notwithstanding the fairest Colours, that can be laid upon it, is in reality nothing less then an complaint of the King to the People, and an arraignment of him, and his Actions before their Tribunal.

And next I shall offer a short view of the *Votes* themselves, and Men's Reasonings about them; And that not to contest the great Reason of the Parliament, which even without the impress of the Royal assent, wants not that measure of Authority whereof all men ought to be most tender. But fairly to weigh the *Vindicator's* Arguments, with what either was or may be laid on the other part to free his Majesty, and others concerned, of the charge, that such a publick *Print* may lay upon them; and to give all Honest Men a right view of our case as it truly stands.

And as to the first *Vote* about the Committees of Parliament it is not needful that I repeat either the *Grievance* represented by the Estates of the Kingdom; or His Majesties *Instruction* to His Commissioner for Redress, that gave the rise to it, both these being sufficiently known. But in prosecution of the method laid down, I admit in behalf of the *Addressers*. First, That the interpreting of the *Grievance*, to which this *Note* relates, doth incontestably belong to the Parliament; and that its meaning was, and is the very same expressed in their Act. 2^{dly}, That by the Instrument of Government, the King undertakes to Redress *This*, with the other *Grievances* therein represented, as he should be advised by His Parliament.

3dly. That the Act of Parliament 1661. declaring the Kings
 Prerogative, in order to Parliaments, albeit sufficiently ample,
 and full, as to the ends of Government; and likewise made
 before the rescission of the Parliament 1641. which first de-
 clared the *Privilege* of Parliament here acclaimed: Yet as
 to this point, is wholly silent. 4th. That by laying together
 the Records of former times, it appears plainly, that our Par-
 liaments have had a free faculty, of using and modeling this
 Committee of Articles at their pleasure. 5th. That the Com-
 mittee of the *Articles* was neither by the Act 1663. nor in
 no time preceeding exclusive of other Committees. 6th. That
 the pretence of equalizing the Estates in the *Articles*, whose
 numbers are unequal in the Parliament, holds as well in more,
 as in one constant Committee; and signifies but very little in
 either case, since the Conclusions of all Committees, must
 again be Voted and established in plain Parliament. 7th. That
 the Argument used for bringing in the Officers of State, into
 either one or more Committees of Parliament, viz. To pre-
 vent the Kings surprise; and to prepare Him by a just fore-
 knowledge of all Motions and Matters in Parliament, for
 giving the Royal Assent unto their *Votes*, is of no weight or
 value, since the presence of the Officers of State for Hearing
 and Observing tho' not for Reasoning and Voting, is unquesti-
 onably allowed in all Committees: And that the King may
 not only require at all times, an account of their Proceedings;
 but may Adjourn every *Overture*, or *Debate*, as well as
 the *Meeting* of Parliament at His pleasure
 Which things amount fully to as much as all adduced by the
Vindication for justifying of this Vote.

And yet on the other side, and in behalf of His Majesties
Infraktion it is no less certain. First, That the Constitution
 of the Articles having never been expressly fixed, until the
 Act 1663, as our Author acknowledgeth, the *Grievance*
 about

about that matter, might have been thought precisely to relate to its correction. 2dly. That the Officers of State, by this Vote debar'd from being *Supernumerary*, are not at all mention'd in the *Grievance*; and that these words in the *Grievance*, viz. *That there ought to be no Committies of Parliament, but such as are freely chosen by the Estates*; may well be understood, of such Membors as use to be Elected without any more prejudice to the *Privilege* of the Officers of State, than to the *Prerogative* of the King, or His Commissioner, as *Supernumeraries*. 3dly, That the same *Lex & Consuetudo Parliamenti*, That gives the Officers of State Right and Priviledge, as His Majesties *Affeele*, to sit in Parliament, doth plead for their Access to all Committies. 4ly. That to pretend that the Officers of State being but *Eight* in all, and never almost all present, are an over ballancing Dead weight; Is as groundless, on the one side, as to alledge on the other, that they being Censurable by the Parliament, for their Administrations, ought not to be admitted as Members, either of Parliaments, or Committies. And Lastly, That if the *Pleadings* for the Admission of the Officers of State: do on the one hand invidiously appropriate to them, the sole care of the Kings Interest in Parliaments: The obstinate conderings on the other hand for their Exclusion, seem to argue a no less Jealousy of their Influence in Detriment of the Peoples Rights and Liberties: So that the Alledgance of a *Separate Interest*, which gave such Offence, when expressed; appears to be as really supposed, by the Impugners of it.

These being the Reasonings on either side, it is too much above me to interpose my Judgment: But this matter of Committies being a *Preliminary*, that in all Parliaments occurs first to be discussed: I shall only wish that the following Particulars may be on both sides considered. *First*, That no man acquainted with the Constitution of our Parliaments, and

and the Laws declaring the Kings *Prerogative* over them; can in the least hesitate, that our Kings have all Power, either necessary or agreeable, to the Condition and Manner of our Free and Lawful Monarchy; albeit the Officers of State should be excluded (unless Elected) from all Committies of Parliament. 2^{ly}. That it can as little be denyed that the admitting of them to have Vote, either in one or more Committies, is not of it self such a *Casting Weight*; and that, since their Place and Vote in Parliament is incontroverted, whether they have place and Vote in Committies or not, cannot be of great consequence, specially seeing it may well be supposed that the principal Men among them, will alwayes, if not by Privilege, yet by the Parliaments own Suffrage, be put upon these Committies. And 3^{ly} That whatever mistake (doubtless through Misinformation) did appear in His Majesties first *Instruction* touching this Head: Yet we see that His ensuing *Instructions*, do first offer an Amendment, then wave the Debate: And, at length, in Matters most material, fairely yield it up. So that it seems, no longer to be questioned, but that His Majesties clearer reason, with the Parliaments just deference to His Royal Interest, will Happily accommodate this Controversy, by appointing such a Plurality of Committies, and such a place therein to the Officers of State, as shall be judged most suitable to the genuine Liberty of Parliaments, and most conducing to the ready Expedition of all their Councils and Affairs. Which things in my humble opinion, rightly and calmly digested, and evenly ballanced, might well have superceded all the Vindicators Discourse on this point, and should at present satisfy and quiet all reasonable Men as to the Issue of the question.

But here I cannot so lightly pass over His Majesties great *Condescendence* in this matter, For albeit the *Vote* of Parliament was point blank contrary to what he had given in *Instruction*:

fruition: Yet for the more ready Settlement of the Kingdom, he not only waves, but as I have said frankly yields up, the debate: Ordering His Commissioner to allow several Committies, for the Settling of the Government of the Church, the Rescinding of Forfeitures, (and that from the year 1660.) and the Raising a Supply for the Army, the most pressing, and important points, as to our present Peace and Quiet. But tho' this was also proposed, and offered by the *Commissioner* in plene Parliament: Yet we have likewise seen, how upon this weak pretence, that the Act of Parliament anent the Committie of the Articles, was standing unrescinded (which yet the inserting of a *non obstante* would clearly have taken off) this good Work was marr'd, and the greatest concerns of the Nation sadly left unsettled, meerly through our own default.

The second, *Vote anent Persons not to be Employed in publick Trusts*; doth undoubtedly, if distinctly framed, and fairly concerted with His Majesty, carrie the highest reason that can be imagined; for seeing that it is certain, in General, that Good Rulers are better then the best of Laws (which were at first only introduced, as Subsidiary to supply their want) and that it is now Evident, in Particular, that this Kingdom hath of late been only Oppressed and Ruined, by such wicked Rulers as no Laws could Restrain; He were an Enemy to humane Society, and condemned by all the *Vindicator's* Arguments as an Adversary of Reason, and his Countries Well-fare, that should not close with the *Affertion*, that publick *Trusts* are to be provided and bestowed with the exactest Care; And that if *Scotland* be made to relapse, into these former evil Hands from which God hath delivered Us, it should be of all Nations most Miserable. But here we have it to Register, that the foregoing Qualifications of a *distinct framing*, and *fair concerting* with His Majesty, were by the chief Promoters of this Good *Vote*, too visibly

visibly

visibly neglected; for not to repeat how the regulating of the Kings prerogative, as to the naming of Persons to publick Trusts was rejected from being a part of the claim of Right, which clearly shews, that all that some designed by this *Vote* was but an *After-game* for retrieving an Advantage, which they themselves had unsincerely abandoned: Nor yet to mention that the moving, and pressing, of both this, and the following *Vote*, was a manifest digression, from the prosecution of the *Redress of Grievances*, which the Estates had represented as most necessary and urgent; can any man judge it consistent either with His Majesties *Prerogative*, or the *Rights and Liberties* of the Subject to require the King to pass an Act, for incapacitating in these general termes of *having been grievous or shewn Dissatisfaction*, or *having been a Retarder or Obstruſter* in manner expressed in this *Vote*? which certainly might at Mens pleasure involve, even such as are known to have been and are still, most Forward and Sincere for the present Establishment: And could not fail to expose both the Kings *Prerogative* to an arbitrary Controle, and the Subjects *priviledge* to no less uncertain and *Billetting* Exclusions. If the Promoters of this *Vote* had been pleased to remember, that Men ought so to make Laws, as supposing their Enemies may come to execute them: And with all had thought meet, as they were desired, to give in a condescendence on the Persons, and carrie His Majesties consent along, as was most Just, Easy, and Decent, in all the former points, being plainly *points of Fact* already past; They had no doubt acted Faithfully, and Prudently and might have expected his Majesties Gracious Concurrence: But seeing the *Vote* in its Generality, doth obviously run in such two edged *Terms*, as in the case of farless changes, then we have seen within these Fourteen or Fifteen Month's, may come to be turned against his Majesty, and its very Authors. Can any man deny, But that His Majesties refusing to pass

pais it, was an Act of *Kindness*, as well as of *Justice*? Specially since this *Print* expressly tell us, that the Parliament promised to condescend particularly on the Persons before their rising; which is a manifest acknowledgement that the *Vote* as it now stands, is imperfect and that the *Vindicator* had no more reason to trouble the World with this complaint, then His Majesty had to give up implicitly, so concerning a part of His Prerogative, to the Discretion of other mens pleasure.

If then this General *Vote* was in the heat of these debates manifestly run up too high; and the real advantage, thereby lost, that the Nation expected by an *incapacitating* Act, nor (from picque) of some preferred before their fellow Pretenders, but of these Persons, who having in the former Reigns been the chief Instruments of our Ruine, do both *ex condigno* & *ex congruo* deserve to be partakers of their late Masters Fate; Should nor all Honest Men, in the conviction of this Errour, now cordially unite, and endeavour the Countries necessary Preservation, and Settlement? And thereby engage the King to accord us, this no less pressing security for its Establishment, specially seeing it may be confidently expected, from the warrant of His Majesties *Declaration*, while Prince of *Orange*, that after the *Forfeiture* of King *James*, He will never protect any, whom this Parliament shall find to have been these very *evil Counsellors* who overturned our Religion, Laws, and Liberties; and subjected all to an absolute and arbitrary Government in manner therein related.

The third and last *Vote* viz. concerning the *Nomination of the ordinary Lords of the Session and the Election of the President*. Is in itself, so Rational, and with all, so closely founded on express Acts of Parliament; that, as it pass almost unanimously, so to me it is more then probable; that if it had been purely proposed, and urged for its own undenyable Rightousness, It had been by His Majesty readily Granted. But

here I must take leave to remind the Reader that for all the Heat, and Noise that this Business hath Occasioned; Yet most were of Opinion, that had it not been, for an accidental Mistake in the directing of his Majesties first *Nomination*, which instead of being Addressed and Executed as it was, should have been Presented and Authorized in plene Parliament: that question had not all been Moved: But the Lords of Session then Nominat, had been as Easily, and Quietly, admitted as the *Nomination* made by King Charles the second, was past in the Parliament 1661. To wit, only by way of Publication, and after the manner of ordinary *Ratifications* without any *Vote* asked or given. But this mistake making a Demur, and contentions dayly Increasing, the good *Act* came to be Voted in an ill Season: Which kept back and hindred the Royal Assent. And what since hath ensued, is, I confess, a weariness for me to Repeat. But my designe being, rather to take off questions for *Peace*; then discuss them for *Victory*; I shall take leave to subjoin what may dispose that way.

And first, albeit all Reason, and the Analogy of our Law agree, that the trial of a Judge presented by the King upon a *single Vacation*, ordained by Act of Parliament to be taken by the Bench should, in the Case of a *Total Vacation*, be supplied and performed by the Parliament: Yet the accident of a *total Vacation*, being preter-natural to a perpetual Society (such as our Colledge of Justice is) and so no wayes provided for by an expresse Act of Parliament, and withall never before falling out, Save about the years 1640 and 1660. It is not much to be wondered, that upon the late extraordinary Revolution; the Case bred some controversy: Specially since it cannot be instanced; either from the first institution of the Session, or any other after occasion, that ever Lords of Session were tried in Parliament.

Next, that as the denying of the point of Fact, viz. That
of

of late there hath happened a *Total Vacation* (a thing most visible) hath more wronged the Alledgers, than strengthened their Cause; so the example of the Kings *Nomination* in the year 1661. upon the like occasion, then transiently published in Parliament, as hath been said, makes no more for the *Trial and Admission* contain'd in this Vore, than the Ratifications of Offices past at that time in Parliament, plead that the same Officers, should now be subjected to the Parliaments Examination.

But the Vindicator being awar of this, tells us, That the Lords Nominate in the year 1661. were not tried in Parliament; not because the Parliament might not have done it; But because there was no need of it, the persons named being persons of *Eminency*, and all notouly qualified according to Law. But nothing could be alledged more at random, since it may still well be remembred, (tho' without the least reflection upon Gentlemen now deceased;) how few either *Lawyers* or *Clear Heads* were amongst them. And that it is most certain, that the present *Nomination* is incomparably better.

3^{ly}. That albeit the Act of Parliament 1379. seems to give the Election of the President to the Lords themselves; yet the principal Design of that part of the Act, is manifestly to allow that the President may be either of the *Spiritual* or *Temporal* State: Notwithstanding that at first, he was appointed to be of the *Spiritual State*. As also it is evident, that, at the first Institution of the Session, the King had the Naming, and did actually Name; the *Vice-President*, as appears by the 42 Act *James the V.* And therefore much more the *President*: And that during the last three Reigns, our Kings have been in use to do so; not only without Control, but with Approbation of the Parliament, as we have seen in the Parliament 1661. which things in my humble Opinion, are enough to take off the force of that Old statute, as being now Antiquat and in Desuetude.

And 4^{ly}. that the Lords of Session being now Named, and entered to their Offices; and the Country generally satisfied with the choice. (tho' no choice will ever be satisfying to all) and much more desirous to have the Kingdom Settled, than Contests continued; either about the Case of a *total vacancy*, which all good men hope shall never reëurre, or about the *President*, rather at this time *reponed ex justitia*, than of new nominate by His Majesty: May it not justly seem strange, that the *Vindicator* should be so warm upon this Head, specially seeing that he cannot be ignorant, how well His Majesty is disposed to pass this *Act* for the *future*; and in effect appears only to have delayed the passing of it hitherto, that for hereafter, it may be more sincerely and firmly observed.

But to speak of either *Reponing* or *Naming* the present *President* to this Office, is enough in the *Vindicators* Opinion; to overthrow all that has been said: And some have been thereat so incensed, that they have not stuck to say, that all Concessions are rather to be rejected. Which I confess is to me so clear a discovery of prevailing passion, and prejudice; that tho' Discourses of this nature be in no Case very acceptable; Yet I cannot forbear to make a short review, of what our Author says, on this occasion, with this only preface; That in Truth the *President* knows as little of my attempting his Defence, as I knew of the Authors Designing his Accusation.

And first he says that *Stairs*, as he calls him, *was the first, that was obtruded by King Charles the II. upon the Lords of Session, to be their President, without being either chosen, or approved by them: And that herein be both Affronted, and betrayed the Laws of the Kingdom.* But first it is certain, and may be seen on Record, that since the beginning of the Reign of King Charles the 1. all *Presidents* of the Session, were Named and Constituted after the same manner, as the Lord

Stairs was: And that any little different *Formality*, that may be remarked in other Mens Cases, as we have seen in that, of *Sir John Gilmorie* in the year 1661. alters nothing of the Substance. 2dly. The *Kings Letter*, at first Nominating the Lord *Stairs* President, was directed to the Lords of Session, openly read in their Court, and by them ordered to be Recorded in their Books, and he thereupon Solemnly, and Heartily received, which I think all men, except the *Vindicator*, will call an Approbation.

But 3ly. Is there a man in *Scotland* can say, that the Legality of the Lord *Stairs* first Admission, was ever before, questioned: And did not *Sir George Lockhart*, a person most knowing, and most observing of the Law, succeed to him in the same sort? With what Countenance then, can our Author say, that the Lord *Stairs* in that his Accession to the Chair, both affronted and betrayed the Laws of the Kingdom?

But he goes on and tells us, *That his whole After-Behaviour in that Station, was of one peece with his Entry, and a continued series of Oppression and Treachery, and all his Sentences, no better then Riddles.* Was there ever any mans passion, so prodigal of Truth, and Honour! And not to notice, how iniquous it is, to charge the Decrees of Fifteen Judges, upon one single man their President: The Lord *Stairs* sat President at first, eleven years, and hath published the *Decisions* of his time, with great Care and Learning: And I am free to say, it, that for all the Murmurings some private parties have made, and which will never be wanting, so long as one must loose, were the *Vindicator* himself in the Seat: yet (bating some unhappy publick debates) the Country was then as well satisfied, and the Acts and Sentences of his time, are really as little Exceptionable, as we have seen in any the like space.

To this he adds, *That the Lord Stair was the principal Minister of all Duke Lauderdale's Arbitraryness, and either*
 Author,

Author, Assister, or Justifier, of all the Rapine and Murder then committed with the Countenance of Authority: That he overthrow and trampled upon the Laws, Rights and Liberties, of the Kingdom: And that there is none in Scotland more accessory to the Robberies, and spoils, and more stained with the Bloody measures of the times then he, specially having perpetrated all, under the Vaile of Religion, and by forms of Law. Then all which there could nothing have been said more calumnious. For, tho' it must be Granted, that the *Place*, and long *Favour* the *President* enjoyed; during these evil Times, could not but insnare him to compliances, which he hath since abundantly Expiat: Yet first he was never Judge, or member in any Criminal Court, nor had any meddling in Criminal Matters, more then as a Privy Counsellour. *2ly.* I attest all Scotland if in these Violent times, both the *Persecuting* and *Persecuted* party did not constantly, tho' with different eyes, look on him as a favourer of the suffering and afflicted interest; And if most men did not Judge, that it was chiefly to retain, in all Events, an interest with the other side, that *Duke Lauderdale* was so kind to Him. But *3ly.* Do not all men know, how Early, and Violently the Late King, when Duke of *Tyrk*, and residing in *Scotland*, began to persecute Him; And that partly upon the account of His Faithful and Bold owning of the Protestant Religion, as well in the first *Address of Welcome* he made to him, in Name of the Lords of Session, as in the succeeding Parliament: And that it was on this sole Account, that he was first most arbitrarily turned out, from being *President*, and then forced to leave the Kingdom. And *4ly.* As our Ancestors Blind Wrath makes him forget, that the *President*, During our worst and indeed most Tyrannous, and Bloody Times, was in *Exile*; so it is well known to all, and to His Majesty in particular (who is as a Thousand witnesses) how in these Six Years of his Banishment, he not only Honoured his Country,

try; and adorned the Protestant Religion, by His Wise, Patient, and most equable Behaviour; But did also, on all occasions, specially in this last of His Majesties coming over to *England*; lay himself out, and venter His *All*, most Zealously, for their Release, and Re-establishment. What more then needs, or can be said, to express our Authors so strange & *Paroxysm*, who much after the same manner aggravates, the false Crimes that he objects, with a supercharge of *Hypocrisis*, as he confirms his unjust accusation, with a pretended *Prophecy*, that never was, in the termes alledged. And whereof, for all that he affirms, no fruit can be instanced, save the *Presidents* honest Benisfment, and more honourable Return.

I might here add, some *Reflections*, on what he adduces to prove that the Parliaments approving of the Kings Nomination of Sir *John Guilmore* to be president, in the Year 1661 was no devesting of the Lords of the power they have by the Act 1579 to choice their own *President*. But since, for all his distinguishing betwixt the *legislative* power, and the *limited Supreme* power (wherein nevertheless the former is still included) our Author Grants, that the Act 1661 was a dispensing with the Act 1579, which, with the antecedent and subsequent instances already given, doeth more then confirm, that the Act 1579 is gone in desuetude. And seing that the *President* at his late return was not by the Bench elected *de novo*, as our Author is pleased to Alledge, I hope that even from this digression, it may be plainly perceived, that the *President* at this time is only *Reponed ex officio*. As likewise that for a more special reason, than is fit to be Expressed, His Majesty had good cause to doe, as he hath done: and that his offer, as is reported, to pass this Vote, about the *Stiffness*, into an *Act* for hereafter, is undoubtedly that which may satisfy all, and put the *Vindicator* himself to silence.

It being then evident, from what hath been said, that the first of these controverted Votes cannot fail to be accommodat; And that the *Second* was truly refused because too General and confessedly imperfect; And lastly that the *Third* was only obstructed, by some mens particular and unjust prejudices, but for the future may readily be granted: May it not well be avowed, that it cannot any longer be the Countries real concern to have these contentions kept on foot, but that it must only proceed from a few mens untoward, and unhappie animosities if the good, necessary, and generally wished for, Establishment, be now married.

A few unquiet men, endeavour to raise a Clamor that if the Vote about the Committees of Parliament be not granted, the Liberty and Benefit of Parliaments is lost: And if the Vote concerning the Session be refused, its true constitution is Subverted: Which being the two Courts whereon all our Laws and Rights do depend, if they be once surrendered, the other must necessarily become *veracious*. And thus they think to move frightful (tho' groundless) Jealousies, and thereby to keep all unsettled, for ends, to themselves best known.

But seeing that all worthy Men, and true Patriots in our Parliament, are now convinced of this Clamor and we have all Reason to expect from his Majesties Justice, and Goodness, so fully express in his instructions; Not only the restoring of the just *Liberties* of our Parliaments with the sure and legal fixing of the Session: But a more happy constitution of the whole Kingdom than it ever yet arrived at. Why should not all men disengage themselves from all parties and prejudices? And condemning into perpetual oblivion these late unhappy and foolish differences (whereof our Enemies have only reapt the advantage) let themselves to concurre uprightly, and strenuously with His Majesty, for the defence of the Kingdom in the first place, the settlement of the Church, the rescinding of

For-

Forfeitures and Fines, and the enacting of other good Laws, whereby this long distressed Nation may, at length, fully and comfortably partake of the Deliverance that God hath wrought for it,

How obstructive our Divisions have been and are to the defence of the Kingdom, and how loud this at present calls for this just, and necessary Resolution, needs not many words to represent. A Powerful, and fierce Enemy threatening from *without*, The Country vexed, and infested at Home by a wild company of broken Men, to the Scandal both of the Government, and His Majesties Arms: Our own Troupes raised for our Defence, tormented for want of Pay, to be little less grievous then our Enemies: And, in a Word, the whole Kingdom so sadly Exposed, that had it not been for his Majesties special Care, who hitherto hath kept a few Regiments amongst us on his own Pay, we had been abandoned, to the Rage and Cruelty of our Adversaries. These things I say are Arguments that need no Comment, and such as in my Opinion, doe, even in Gods sight, who will have Mercy, and not Sacrifice, plead, that the giving and raising of a necessary Supply of Money, be preferred to the Churches Settlement: Nor can I think that on second Thoughts, this will stumble any on the account either of *Zeal* or *Policy*. For seeing that the necessity is Visible, and most pressing, and that unless the Nation be first preserved, both the settling of the Church, and the redressing of Grievances are the Vainest of Labours; How can the making of this our *first* Care be seriously contested. I know that in times of Peace, and when Money is rather Demanded by the Court, then needed by the Country, It hath been a piece of our Politick to Barter therewith the redress of Grievances; but when Wars both Foreign and Intestin are kindled against us, to mind any thing preferable to the means of their extinction, no sober reason can comprehend. During the last Session of Parliament, we could reckon Provisions for much longer time then was needful, for the dispatching of all Affairs, but now all these are long since exhausted; so that

no pretext remains. Besides what an irrational Peevishness, and unaccountable Folly is it, for any to imagine that an indispensable contribution for our own Relief, and Safety, should be so much as considered as a *Royal aid*, far less, that His Majesty either will forgoe his own Interest, or submit himself to some mens particular Designs, and Humors, for any *small* advance, were it of the old monthly assessment; that this Country can make, And farther (to view the matter at every Angle) can even the worst minded Man think, that the giving of this Supply, is the Parliaments *main*, and therefore may be, its *last* work, when evidently their remains such a pressure of other Affairs, as assures us of its continuance, though we had not His Majesties engagement for it, ten times more effectually. But to superadd on this Theme, to both *necessity* and *reason*: Is not the Settlement of the Church the business most urgent? And doth not *England*, as well as *Scotland*, look upon this Parliament as *Presbyterian*? What then on the *one Hand*, would more expose us, to the prejudice and misconstruction of the ill willers of *Presbytery*, than *Disgracefully*, to postpone to give the King, who hath already Expended so vast Sums for us, this small Retribution, for our own Defence, in so necessary an Exigence? And on the *Other*, what could be more satisfying, and obliging to His Majesty, as well as advantageous to all His other great Affairs, than for us equally to witness our Concern for our own Defence, and entire Trust in Him, and Zeal for His Service, by making, in the first place, a Frank and Cheerful Offer.

Nor hath the Church Suffered less by these contentions, its Settlement having been thereby hitherto delayed, and that important work becoming every day more hard and difficult. I shall not here speak of the import of this *Work*, as to the setting forward of the Glory of God, the preserving of the Kingdom and pleasure of our Lord; and the Gaining and Edifying of poor Souls to eternal Life, these things, tho' most worthy to be minded by all, are yet too precious to be

exposed by my hand, to this untoward Generation. But seeing the Rule, and Model, by which we must walk in this matter, To wit, that good old way of *Presbytery*, wherein the true Religion was first and last established, and did alwayes best thrive in this Nation, is so well known, and generally acknowledged; And that also the great preparation for its *Restitution*, viz. The abolishing of all Prelacy in this Church, is *Fundamentally*, fixed: And lastly, that the success of his Majesties affairs else where, as well as of our own peace, and quiet is evidently here concerned: Is it not to be regreted, that this good settlement, hath been hitherto so Unhappily and Foolishly hindered? and if any threatening obstacle, should for the Future, prove a disappointment, have we not our selves only to blame for it? I know we have the assurances of Gods word, and the Kings Promise, with that also, of the inclination and interest of this whole Kingdom, that what is begun shall be perfected. But it can as little be denied, that if a greater dispatch had here been made, the *opposition* at Home, encouraged by our Divisions, had been less; the *Clamour* made abroad by a few Refractory Men, more neglected; and Hundreds of Honest Ministers, and their Families more seasonably Relieved.

And for the *Clamour* made in *England* (which I shall only here a little Touch) upon the late turning out of some of our *Episcopal Clergy*; how much the Raisers thereof have been emboldned by our delays, and to what a height it is Grown, is but too obvious. When, upon the dawning of our late wonderful deliverance, and in the short *Anarchical interval* that ensued; some of the People in the *West* and *South west* parts of the Kingdom, that had been long, and most severely oppressed, by Prelatick Persecutions, were stirred up to remove, and put away the Men, who in stead of being their *Pastors*, had been in effect their *Devourers*: The thing, for all the little Insolences of *Tearing of Gowns*, and such like *Indignities*, that hapned in a few places, and are inevitable in all Popular executions, was yet Generally lookt upon by all, as a *Disorder* that could not be prevented: And considering that Peoples grievous provocations, and the unrestrained License of

the time, most men were well pleased that it proceeded no farther: And therefore when the *Estates* of the Kingdom met, They very wisely thought fit to overlook what was past, and only to Command, that peace and good order, should be kept for the future. And thus the Sufferers themselves, continued quiet, as well out of Conscience of their own ill-deservings, as from the apprehension they had of a greater change imminent. But so soon as our *Divisions* broke out, to the obstructing of the Churches Settlement: Then these who had been *Outed* by the People, joyning with their Brethren, *Deprived* by the Ordinance of the States, for their Adherence to King *James*, and refusing to Pray for King *William* and Queen *Mary*, Combine together, to raise the Cry, for Alarming those of the Church of *England*, as if not only their Cause were the same; but they, forsooth, the most harmless and holy, and withall the most Oppressed men on the earth. And this their Confidence is now arrived at that height, that they have procured a Book, called, *An account of the present persecution of the Church in Scotland*, to be published in *England*; whether more False, or Tragical, it is not easie to determine: Only here we have also the common relief that scarce ever fails, where *Malice* and *Passion* come to be the Informers and Accusers, *viz.* That, besides the notorious *Falshoods*, ridiculous *Wrestings*, and absurd *Inconsistencies* that fill all the *pages* of this Pamphlet, the Authors rage against the people, whom he calls the *Rabble*, doth so far transport him, as to make him discover the *real inward thoughts* of him, and all his partakers, to wit, That it was the Prince of *Orange* his *Declaration* and undertaking for our Relief, that first animat the *Rabble* against the Inferior Clergy: That it was the same *Rabble*, that not only protected, but influenced the meeting of the *Estates*: And that in effect, the *Estates*, both in their *Sovereign* and *Parliamentary* Capacities, with the *Committee of Estates* and His Majesties *Privy Council*, were plainly the *Rabbles* Successors and Abettors, in all their Violences: Where-
by

by he no less evidently proclaimeth to the World, that (in his judgment) the *Outing* of the Prelatick Clergy, the *Detroning* of King *James*, and *Entroning* of King *William* and Queen *Mary*, with the *Abolishing* of Prelacy, were all the work of the same Authors; And that the design of this *Print* is not so much to obtain the Church of *Englands* Compassion and Assistance to our suffering Clergy, as first to Alienate the Kingdom of *England* from us; and then to procure this most Friendly and Faithful Parliament to King *William*, to be Dissolved, as its first Letter openly professes, and so to betray both Kingdoms to King *James*.

But not to digress farther into these matters; that may more properly, and most easily be cleared else where: I shall only here, for preventing of our Neighbours mistakes, and encouraging of Friends at home, as to what our Parliament may find necessary, for the Establishment of *Presbytery* amongst us; take notice of these few notable and undenyable *Differences*, betwixt the Church of *England* and our Episcopal Church (or rather Clergy) of *Scotland*, viz.

First, That *Scotland* as our *Claim of Right*, truly affirms, was Reformed from *Popery* by *Presbyters*, and those of the strictest *Geneva Form*, so that *Presbytry* was *inlaid*, as it were, and is altogether Co-natural to the *Protestant Religion* in this Church; and *Prelacy* being an after and mere Politick *Superinduction*, could never be kindly received, and submitted to by us; nor at any time attain to a plenary possession, as our constant retaining of *Consistorial*, *Classical*, and *Synodal Assemblies* under *Bishops*, when at their highest, doth evidently testify. Whereas in *England*, their chief Bishops, becoming through the Grace of God, their chief Reformers, and Martyrs; and God in his manifold *Wisdom*, thinking fit to carry on that Work there, by methods of humane *accomodating Prudence*; which in *Scotland*, as well as in all other Reformed Churches, he was pleased to bring about in another way, by more immediate and

extraordinary providences, Episcopacy came in England, to be quite differently Founded, and is visibly more surely and successfully there Established.

Whence also it is *2^{ly}*. That *England* having Reformed by *Bishops*, and these Reforming *Bishops* having been very eminent, for their Worth, and Piety, as I have said, the very Honour, that all men there do still bear to the Reformation, doth, to this day, influence both the Choice, and Behaviour of most, that are promoted to that Order: Whereas in *Scotland*, *Bishops* having been, first and last Intruders; the known reason, which I need not repeat, that King *James* the Sixth gave, why he made not Honest men *Bishops* in *Scotland*; hath been a perpetual Truth. And hence it hath no less observably followed, that both the *Bishops* and *Inferior Clergy* of *England*, have ever been true to the *Protestant Interest*, and less Violent against their Non-conforming Brethren, and are at present more Faithful to King *William*, than the *Bishops* and their *Clergy* in *Scotland*; who, having alwayes entred by *Intrusion*, and being destitute of the Countreys Favour, did never keep any other measures, save to flatter the King, that made them, and persecute the *Presbyterians*, from whom they were Apostates, and on whom they were Imposed, beyond all measures.

And *3^{dy}*. It is from these Causes, and is in it self an Incontestable truth, amongst us; that the Church of *England* is not at this time more Loyal, and firm to King *William*; than all the Adherers to *Prelacy* in *Scotland*, are his heart Enemies, and real Friends to King *James*, as both their profession and practice do every where declare. So that upon all these Considerations, the great Concerns of the Security of the *Protestant Religion*, the Establishment of His Majesties Throne, and the Safety of both Kingdoms, do, in regard of Church Matters, evidently require different Measures, but withall Charity and mutual Forbearance.

But

But these things being no wayes said, from the least complacency in the Sufferings of any, but purely to remove prejudices, and procure a right understanding, both at Home, and Abroad in a *Juncture*, so Critical, and in matters so concerning the good of Religion, and happy Concord of both Kingdoms. I shall only wish that all may receive them with the like mind, for the cutting off of growing Contentions, and for furthering the Settlement of this poor Church, which hath hitherto been so sadly postponed.

Nor 3^{dly}, Should it be a small motive to perswade all just, and good men, to Peace, and Union; that so many hundred Forfeitures, and Fines, which His Majesty is willing to have restored, ly overunremedied. For albeit, a few of these Forfeited persons, may be got into the possession of their Estates; yet it is certain, that the far greater part of them, specially those of the *Meaner* sort, and therefore more to be compassionat, are still, either totally excluded, or have at most attained, to a partial broken Possession; and that all of them, stand Forfeited in Law, without all legal Right, and Title; which proves, not only a present Impediment, in the prosecution of their Affairs, but is a most visible hazard, to be by all avoided. And as for the *Fines*, how many hundreds of them remain undischarged, or unrestored: As likewise how much, are both the Vassals, and Creditors of Forfeited persons concerned to have these Forfeitures rescinded. And therefore when the King is so desirous to make good the *Relief* that He here promised, we were undoubtedly the Unhappiest of Men, if a few differences, which if not over-driven, may so easily be composed, should still postpone, (and it may be) in the end frustrate it.

And lastly, to induce all men, to lay aside these unreasonable Contests, how many good Laws do we want; that are all thereby obstructed: I need not notice, that many things in the *Claim of Right*, are yet, by *Form of Law*, to be perfected; and that the whole *Grievances* thereto subjoined, remain unredressed. Only it is to me a piece of wonder, that these two being so visible, and

Important; a little *Disgust* in the entry, with a precarious anticipate possession of the *Eale and Liberty* we thereby expected, should make men so thoughtless of providing for a legal and lasting Security. But farther, it is more than probable, that if the Parliament were once met, and these differences quietly laid aside, we should not only obtain the Laws above-mentioned, according to His Majesties *Instructions*: But also many other good Laws, which, tho' not pertinent here to mention, yet we assuredly want, and might then be successfully proposed, for the good and advantage of both King and people.

There is one thing more above touched, which I might have noticed more fully, and that is the *Vindicator's* frequent insinuations, of *Abuses*, and *Misgovernments*; and the Kings receiving, and holding his Crown, by *Bargain*, with a tacite threat of the hazard of his Predecessors Fate. But this part in him is evidently so groundless and pernicious, that I am sure all good men judge it rather, to be abominat, then refused. It pleased God to stir up the Spirit of these Nations, very unanimously, to throw off K. James for His manifest *Apostacy*, *Mis-government* and *Desertion*; and at the same time, most signally, to present to us the Prince of Orange our Deliverer, to fill his place, with as small a deviation, as possible, from the old *Line*; and all the marks of a Divine Recommendation. If then to him the Kingdom did submit, not upon any new stipulations; But purely with a *reviving*, and *asserting* of their undoubted Rights and Liberties, as the Claim of Right speaks, shall this so Sacred a *Transaction*, which in the time of our former Kings was not so much as to be Named, And whereby God hath, as it were by a new gift, confirmed the Crown to King William, more then to all his Predecessors, be on every trivial Occasion, Prostitut, and Basted by our Licentious Reasonings? And ought we not rather with Love Honour and Reverence, to reflect, that, as the Lord first sent the Prince, and then most remarkably set him over us, as His Anointed, as well as our King; so while he Acted alone for God, and us, he was

very

very wonderfully prospered, and that it is the accession of our Sin, and ingratitude that plainly seems, to retard the Glorious course of his success, which in stead of suggesting any sinistrous thoughts of His Royal Administration, should only render us more humbly submissive both to God, and his Majesty.

But to conclude, the short *sum* of what I have said, Is that all Honest and unbyassed men, who seek their own advantage not at the rate, but in consequence only, of that of the publick; suffer not themselves to be imposed upon, by false *Notions* and *Figures of things* which *Passion*, and partiality doth first impose upon their Authors. If we were threatned to be put again in the hands of our former Taskmasters, and Tyrants; Or if the Liberties of our Parliaments, or Rights of the Session, were in hazard to be Ravished, then we might Justly raise a Cry: But when the mistake about the *Committees* of Parliament is ready to be rectified: The incappacitating Act only refused, because manifestly lyable to be abused, unto a blind and iniquous *Ostracism*, in prejudice of both King and People: And the *Session* now Satisfyingly constitute, and the Vote anent it, purely superceded for what is *Past*; that afterwards it may more impartially take place: shall a poor afflicted Country, lye still in its Distress, and Confusion, deprived of all the Blessings of Gods Deliverance, and His Majesties Goodness, unless the King unnecessarily humble Himself, to make a *Retreat*, where His Subjects, may far more decently *yeild*, and with the assurance of a more happy Concord? Which in Truth is the precise point, into which every cool Considering Man must of necessity resolve, our Differences: Or rather should not all good Men, having God, the King, and the Country, clearly on their side, firmly, and sincerely, Unite both in Parliament,

ment, and elsewhere: *First*, for the encouraging, and
 strengthening of His Majesties Hands, in our own Defence,
 against the common Enemy, and then for the effectuating
 of the long, and much desired Relief and *Establishment* of
 both Church, and Kingdoms. Which God in his Mercy
 Grant.

F I N I S.

E R R A T A.

Page 3. line 39. for *occasion* read *accession*, p. 10. l. 16. for *plain* r. *plene*, p. 16. l.
 7. for *not all* r. *not at all*, page 22. l. 22. for *convincing* of r. *convincing of the wa-*
nish of.



